THE "OCCASIONAL PAPER."

TWO LETTERS

FROM

THE BISHOP OF COLUMBIA

TO

THE REV. E. CRIDGE

AND

BISHOP DEMERS.

Printed at the British Colonist Office,
VICTORIA, V. I.

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FROM THE REV. E. CRIDGE TO THE BISHOP OF COLUMBIA.

The Parsonage, October 15th, 1860.

My Dear Lord,

You will pardon me for writing just a line on a subject which, under the circumstances of our infant colony, I feel to be of considerable importance. I allude to a passage in an "Occasional Paper" attributing to our American brethren certain political designs in connection with the last election.

This statement has, I am given to understand, given displeasure to that body; and as I feel sure that, whatever may have been the circumstances under which it was written or published, it does not represent the present opinions of your lordship, I think a word of explanation is due to a class of persons who as a body have greatly aided in advancing the material interests of the colony, and who from the first have been associated with the British portion of the community in various objects of common interest.

As I have witnessed from the beginning the progress of events which have brought and detained among us so many of

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our American brethren, and have always personally received from them the utmost courtesy; and as, on the other hand, from the connexion which it is my unfeigned pleasure to hold with you as my Bishop, I have had many opportunities of knowing your sincere good-will towards that respected class of our townsmen; I think I may be excused for endeavoring to put myself in the position of becoming the medium of an explanation, which, when made, will, I feel confident, restore that cordiality of feeling which by the above cause seems to have been somewhat interrupted.

Believe me, my dear Lord,

Yours very faithfully,

EDWARD CRIDGE.

FROM THE BISHOP OF COLUMBIA TO THE REV. E. CRIDGE.

My Dear Mr. Cridge,

I assure you it is with sincere regret I learn that annoyance has been felt by my American brethren. Private letters are not always so carefully worded as those intended for the public, and extracts, disconnected from other parts of

a correspondence, do not fairly represent the mind of the writer, and are likely to be misunderstood.

Such is the case in the present instance. The letters were not written for publication, nor in the exact shape in which they appear; the extracts, however, have been made with the best intentions, and by a zealous friend of these colonies.

You say pain is felt at the imputation of political designs. The object of the allusion to the election was to shew the action of the colored people, in whom great interest is taken in England, who voted against the party which seemed most to embody the sentiments, and enjoy the sympathy of the Americans; and gave their support to the opposite party, which they seemed to regard as the exponent of English principles; and thus by their votes contributed to the victory of the latter. It was not intended to state that American citizens voted, or to insinuate that there were not in the ranks of the Reformers many loyal Englishmen.

Of course, the allusion to "annexation" was a mere pleasantry, which, in a letter familiarly written, conveyed no more serious intention than do remarks often made in conversation with our Republican brethren in friendly reference to their enterprising love of territory.

I am told the picture of society in some parts of the adjoining continent is overdrawn. My information was derived from what I ascertained to be good authority. Still, views in such matters are shaded by the opinions and feeling of the observer, and I also may have been too ready to

accept the statement from being previously aware of the wide-spreading infidelity which is lamented by thoughtful Americans.

Our friends cannot expect to be free from criticism. In the working of their institutions we take the deepest interest, that we may copy their many good things, and carefully guard ourselves against evils seen and deprecated by true-hearted and philanthropic men among themselves.

No one is more open to appreciate the excellent qualities of my American neighbors than myself. I have had occasion in correspondence to allude to that noble spirit of enterprise for which we are so largely indebted in these colonies; and also gratefully to acknowledge the kind and generous open-heartedness which, in San Francisco and elsewhere, my clergy and myself have experienced from them.

It was this sentiment of respect and regard, and my earnest desire to draw more closely the tie of kindred origin and tongue, that made it a delight to receive and welcome to my dwelling several American friends, who had come over to help us at the recent consecration of St. John's Church.

While upon the subject of the "Occasional Paper," I may allude, though you have not named it, to a paragraph which has been commented upon,—the part taken by the Roman Catholic Bishop in the election. I do not believe the extract is correctly made, and I have written to Bishop Demers regretting the publication of such an imputation.

The other incident is a fact, trivial indeed in itself, but noticeable on my first arrival as an index of feeling. I trust and believe it was an exceptional case, and is far from indicating the feelings of Roman Catholics towards their Protestant brethren here.

I am not without hope that, though the "Occasional Paper" has caused some irritation to be regretted, yet the grand object in view will not be lost sight of; and that the desire of the best good of these colonies therein manifested, and the plans set forth, may excite the interest, and stir up the energies of some, who would not otherwise be moved, to labor in their respective spheres for the common good and to advance the glory of God.

Believe me, my dear Mr. CRIDGE,

Sincerely yours,

G. COLUMBIA.

Victoria, Oct. 16th, 1860.

FROM THE BISHOP OF COLUMBIA TO BISHOP DEMERS.

RIGHT REV. AND DEAR SIR,

For my own satisfaction, and in justice to you, I offer a word of explanation and regret in reference to an extract introduced into print from a private letter of mine.

Though persons, having good objects in view, may inter-

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change opinions and impressions upon society and public characters, without doing or intending injury, no one has a right to publish reflections impugning the motives, and calculated to wound needlessly the feelings of another.

Two months ago I received the "Paper" in which was such a reflection attributing an unworthy motive to your conduct on a public occasion.

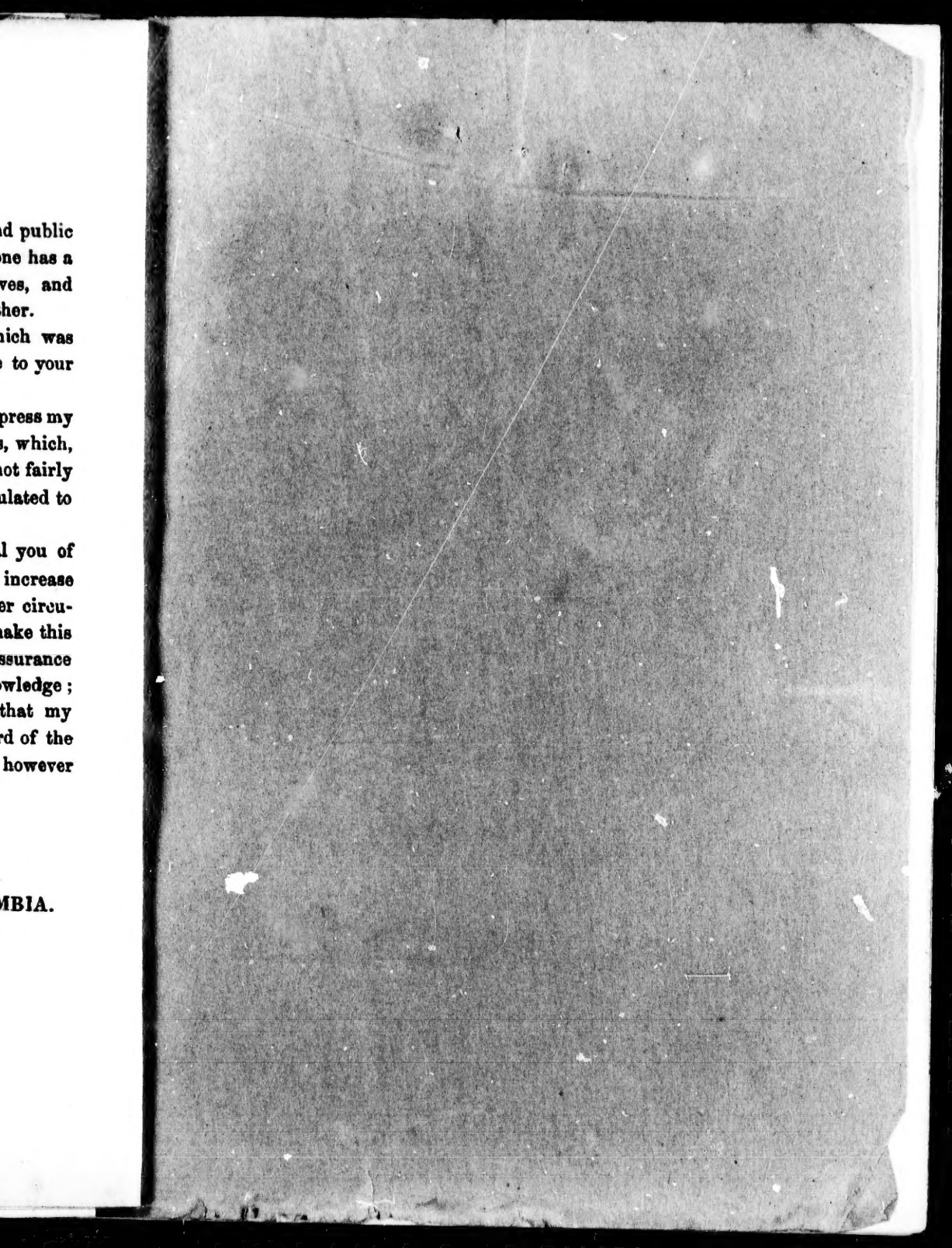
I at once wrote to desire its withdrawal and to express my sorrow at the insertion of that and other extracts, which, taken out of connection with other statements, did not fairly represent the mind of the writer, and were calculated to hurt the feelings of others.

My first desire at the time was to write and tell you of this. Such a course, however, seemed likely only to increase publicity. But now that others have given the Paper circulation, I feel it due to you as well as to myself to make this communication. I trust you will accept it as an assurance that the imputation was published without my knowledge; that I did what I could to counteract it; and that my earnest desire is that nothing lower than the standard of the Charity of the Gospel should rule amongst us, however widely differing on points of essential belief.

I remain, Right Rev. and Dear Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

G. COLUMBIA.

Victoria, Oct. 13th, 1860.

The Right Rev. Bishop Demers.